

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-12 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1-6, 11 and 12 are rejected. Claims 7-10 are objected to but would be allowable if placed into independent form.

***Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. § 102***

Claims 1-6, 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Berwanger (WO-03/021 126 or US - Patent n° 6,752,248). **This rejection is traversed for at least the following reasons.**

First, Applicant respectfully notes that Berwanger corresponds to the reference identified in the IDS filed by the Applicants. Applicant further notes that the “*recent solution*” mentioned in the present specification (page 2, line 25 to page 3, line 7) corresponds precisely to the system disclosed in Berwanger. The differences were further emphasized in the specification at page 4 lines 3-10. The claims were drafted originally in a manner that distinguished over Berwanger.

Second, in particular, Berwanger discloses a brake system including a torque tube which exhibits asymmetric stiffness in order that its vibration modes be weaker and not concentric with the axle axis or the brake disks. In achieving that result, Berwanger uses a torque tube that is axially asymmetrical. More particularly, the torque tube includes an annular support flange including a plurality of holes, wherein certain ones of which are non-circular thereby imparting asymmetry to the support flange and to the torque tube. As indicated in column 2, at the end the third paragraph, the torque tube is axially asymmetric due to the non-uniformly distributed hole pattern of openings (holes), as clearly illustrated on Figure 2.

It should be noted that the innermost portion of such annular support flange is conventional, i.e. circumferentially uniform, contrary to the Examiner’s statement in the Office Action. Such system has the disadvantage that the transverse annular flange (or web) is weakened, as it easily understood when considering the annular hole 47 of large circumferential length. Then, the axial resistance (along the central axis) is lowered, and the annular flange may easily flex.

In the present invention, there is also an annular flange (or web), but that flange is conventional design (some circular holes regularly spaced). By contrast to the structure in Berwanger, it is the centering bearing, as defined in claim 1, that includes an asymmetrical feature (structural characteristics that vary circumferentially in a distribution configuration suitable for generating different bearing stiffnesses"). On the basis of this difference, in accordance with the present invention, there is no risk to have a weakened resistance of the annular supporting web, in particular along the central axis.

Berwanger does not disclose nor teach the provision of an asymmetrical feature in the centering bearing rather than in the annular flange.

Furthermore, the different embodiments of the invention which are illustrated in the drawings are basically axially symmetrical (diametrically apposite portions), which corresponds to an approach exactly opposite to Berwanger's teaching directed towards an axially asymmetrical torque tube.

On the basis of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed system patentably defines over Berwanger.

#### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication on the Office Action Summary sheet that claims 7-10 are objected to. Applicant assumes that these claims would be allowable if amended to be placed into independent form. Since the Examiner did not expressly provide such guidance, the claims are left un-amended. In any event, Applicant believes that the parent claim is allowable, as noted above, and that all of the claims should be allowed.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Response under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Application No. 10/619,465

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

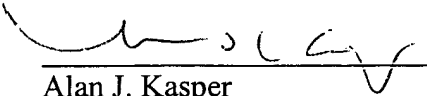
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